

Remarks

This amendment is responsive to the Office communication mailed May 10, 2006.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 6-8, which have been cancelled. Also, the “hypertext reply” language has been reinstated since it agrees with the language of claims 6-8 and since the Examiner evidently did not regard the “display presenting said data” language as distinguishing over Miller. Claims 12 and 20 have been similarly amended, while claims 14-16 and 22-24 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 12 and 20 as amended are thus identical in substance with claims 8, 16 and 24 as they existed before the previous amendment. This amendment therefore presents no new issues requiring a further search or the like.

Claim Objections—35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 12 and 20 are objected to because of their initial reference to “said requester” without a requester having been expressly referenced. In addition to the amendments noted above, these claims have been amended to refer to “a requester” on the first reference, thereby eliminating this ground for objection.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 12 and 20 as amended are directed to a method, apparatus or a program storage device in which each of a plurality of browser components (212, 214, 216) on the server side is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding database and generate a non-request-specific portion of a browser-specific portion of a hypertext reply. Each browser component also has a translator component (220, 222, 224) associated with it that intermediates between the browser component and its database and generates a request-specific portion of the browser-specific portion of the hypertext reply.

As amended, these claims clearly distinguish over Miller et al. 2004/0059728 ("Miller"), cited as an allegedly anticipatory reference. As previously explained, Miller describes a method and system for retrieving search results from "multiple disparate" databases. As shown in Figs. 1 and 5, in the server system 10 a "control engine" 14 responsive to search requests received over a user interface 12 forwards search information extracted from the user requests to one or more translators 16a-16f (step 510), which contact individual databases 18a-18f (step 520). The control engine 14 consolidates search results received back from the translators 16 and forwards them to the user interface 12 (step 530), which formats the results for display to the end user (step 550). In Miller, therefore, the individual translators 16 generate the request-specific portion of a hypertext reply (i.e., the specific query results shown in Figs. 3-4), while the common elements (the control engine 14 and the user interface 12) generate the non-request-specific portion of the reply. No matter what the source of the data, therefore, the general display format is always the same.

In applicant's claimed invention, on the other hand, it is the individual browser components that generate non-request-specific portions of a browser-specific portion of a hypertext reply, while associated translator components generate request-specific portions of the reply. This allows for much greater flexibility, since the general format of a hypertext reply, and not just the specific results, may be made browser-specific.

Citing paragraphs 37-38 and 43 of Miller, the Examiner states that each translator 16 "encodes search results in HTML and creates a number of summary statistics and records and corresponding hyperlinks in HTML" (page 3, ¶ 5). These summary statistics and records, however, all relate to a specific query. They are therefore part of the request-specific portion of the reply, not part of the non-request-specific portion of the reply as claimed by applicant. Accordingly, this feature of Miller neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of claims 1, 12 and 20 as amended and the claims dependent thereon.

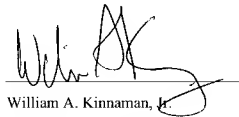
For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 12 and 20 and the claims dependent thereon are believed to distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner.

Conclusion

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
YOUNG-JUN YOON

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Kinnaman, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

William A. Kinnaman, Jr.

Registration No. 27,650

Phone: (845) 433-1175

Fax: (845) 432-9601

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